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A cross-sectional study of passion between male basketball and football players

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to find out the difference between Basketball and Football players on the variable Passion. A total of 40 male inter-college level subjects were selected from the various colleges of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Passion was assessed by using Passion questionnaire developed by Vallerand *et al.*, 2003. Data was analysed by applying unpaired t-test. Significant differences were found between the two groups.

Keywords: Passion, football, basketball

Introduction

Passion is a term applied to a very strong feeling about a person or thing. Passion is an intense emotion compelling, feeling, enthusiasm, or desire for something. The term is also often applied to a lively or eager interest in, or admiration for, a proposal, cause, or activity or love to a feeling of unusual excitement, enthusiasm or compelling emotion, a positive affinity or love, towards a subject, idea, person, or object. (Vallerand *et al.*, 2003) [6] (Vallerand *et al.* 2006) [11], Vallerand and Houliort (2003) [4], and Vallerand and Miquelon (2007) [5], "have offered a conceptual analysis of passion toward activities. Passion is a strong inclination toward an activity that individual like, that they find important and in which they invest time and energy. Passion has generated a lot of attention from philosophers. Their focus, however, was more on the emotional aspect of passion than on its motivational dimension as is the case with the present approach on passion. Two perspectives have emerged (Rony 1990) [1]. The first posits that passion entails a loss of reason and control as exemplified in the writings of Plato (429-347 BC) and Spinoza (1632-1677). In line with the etymology of the word passion (from the latin "passio" for suffering) people afflicted with passion are seen as experiencing a kind of suffering, as if they were slaves to their passion, because it comes to control them. The second perspective portrays passion in a more positive light. For instance, Descartes (1596-1650) sees passions as strong emotions with inherent behavioral tendencies that can be positive as long as reason underlies the behavior. Finally, Hegel argues that passions are necessary to reach the highest levels of achievement. Thus, this second view portrays passion in a more positive light as some favorable outcomes may be experienced when individuals are in control of their passion.

Two types of passion are posited to develop as a result of the type of internalization process that takes place. The first one, harmonious passion, results from an autonomous internalization of the activity into the person's identity. An autonomous internalization takes place when the activity is perceived to be important in the absence of any contingencies attached to it. A motivational force to engage in the activity willingly follows such internalization, and leads to a sense of personal endorsement and volition about engaging in the activity. People then freely choose to engage in the activity and do not feel a compulsion to partake in it. With harmonious passion, the passionate activity is in harmony with other aspects of the person's life. It does not hold an overpowering space in the person's identity (Vallerand *et al.*, 2003) [6]. The purpose of this study was to analyse "Passion" between Basketball and Football players.

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Methodology

Selection of Subjects

For this purpose, the investigator had selected Forty (N=40) male inter-college level basketball and football players of 20 to 25 years of age to act as subjects. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the subjects. In order to measure the level of passion, Passion questionnaire developed by Vallerand *et al.*, 2003 [6] was applied. The scoring was done according to the manual of questionnaire.

Statistical techniques Employed

To determine the significant differences between basketball and football players, unpaired t-test was employed for data analyses. To test the hypothesis, the level of significance was set at 0.05.

Results

Table 1: Significant differences in the Mean scores of Basketball and Football players on the variable Passion

Variable	Basketball Players (N=20)			Football Players (N=20)			t-value
	Mean	SD	SEM	Mean	SD	SEM	
Passion	89.54	7.32	1.22	94.49	9.04	1.23	3.09*

*Significant at 0.05 level

Degree of freedom= 38 (2.0244)

Table-1 presents the results of basketball and football players with regard to the variable Passion. The descriptive statistics shows the Mean and SD values of basketball players on the variable passion as 89.54 and 7.32 respectively. However, football players had Mean and SD values as 94.49 and 9.04

respectively. The 't'-value 3.09 as shown in the table above was found statistically insignificant ($P < .05$). But while comparing the mean values of both the groups, it has been observed that football players have demonstrated better passion than the basketball.

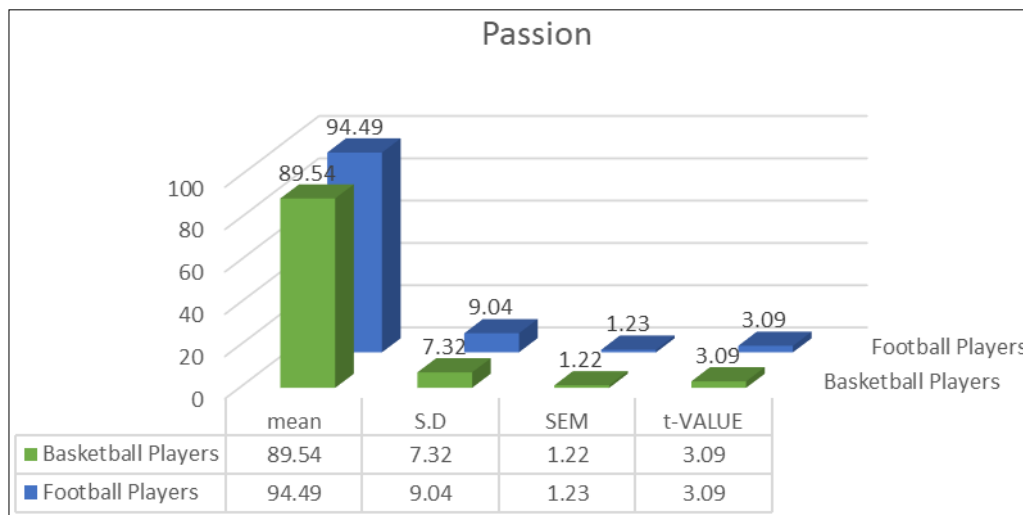


Fig 1: Graphical representation of mean differences between basketball and football players

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